

# Meeting Summary



Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting  
Tuesday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
8:30 a.m.



Attendees: Robert Anderson; Mary Pat Baldauf; Penny Delaney Cothran; David Foster; Kelvin Keisler; Zach Laprise; Lisa Musekari (new non-voting); Mary Nesfield (new non-voting); Bob Petrulis; Priscilla Preston; Clint Shealy; Peggy Smedley; Tamera Warren; Stacey Washington; Samantha Yager; Lori Ziolkowski.

Guests: Jack Bingham (USC journalism student); Aric Jensen (Richland County Administrator's Office); Richelle Tolten (SC Energy Office) Stacey Washington (SC Energy Office)

Chairman Lori Z. called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes from the September and October meetings were approved as submitted.

Attendees and guests introduced themselves.

Dr. Z. announced that she's structured this meeting to give an overview to our new appointees.

Bob Petrulis provided a communication update. He and Tamera Warren have been working on this year's last CPAC webinar, Environmental Stewardship in Faith-based Organizations, which will take place online Thursday, December 16 from 6 to 7. He'll be pulling together a meeting to discuss the communications plan soon, and asked interested appointees to take a ["when to meet" survey](#) to facilitate a date selection. Tamera Warren provided more background on the webinar series.

Penny Cothran then gave a "Resolution 2.0" update, associated with the City's Ready for 100% Renewable pledge. The first resolution was done in 2017 when

City Council pledged to convert to 100% renewable energy community-wide by 2036. The working group meets every other Friday at 10 a.m. For the sake of the new members, Bob explained that the “resolution 2.0” was recommended by the consultant who created a framework for Ready for 100. He suggested that the city needs to clarify a number of things in the original resolution, so this working group is responding to that recommendation.

Related to Ready for 100, Dr. Z. explained that CPAC and some other community partners are part of a renewable aggregate cohort with the World Resources Institute, which is working toward a goal of having a third party do a large-scale solar development to help further Ready for 100. Partners include the City of Columbia, Richland School District One, Richland County, the University of South Carolina and Columbia Housing Authority, and others are being considered. The local group is talking possibilities with Dominion, and while there isn’t a lot of meat on the bones right now, it appears to be a possibility. She explained that it is very much a work in progress that could take another year, but that it was exciting for all of these groups to be working together toward the one goal.

Dr. Z. then called for staff updates, and the group heard the following:

**Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator:**

- Staff recently submitted comments on an USDA-proposed partnership for sustainable agriculture and forestry program.
- There will be a Midlands Green Business virtual networking meeting on Thursday at noon; the topic is eating sustainably for the environment and managing food waste. The event is free, but registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=191230193657>.
- A small working group of City staff has been convened to look at electrification of the City’s fleet. They have located a comprehensive plan from Raleigh, NC and are exploring the possibility of creating something similar. Staff is currently looking for possible ways to finance the estimated \$130,000 for a consultant. (Copy of Raleigh plan to be sent with minutes.)
- The City has changed their website platform, and will be updating CPAC’s pages.
- MP, Penny and Dr. Z. recently met with the Nation Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) to comment on a proposed program to assist cities in the

conversion to renewable. NREL has invited the team back to for further discussions in mid-November. There is no commitment for funds or technical assistance at this point, but it bodes well that the City was invited back.

**David Foster, Fleet Services Administrator:**

- Fleet has an abundance of tires that end up getting scrapped and recycled. They have implemented a program to minimize the quantity that we're sending for recycling and actually put them in reuse.

**Kelvin Keisler, General Services:**

- Currently in the assessment phase of fleet electrification and looking at EV forecast, supporting infrastructure and possible policies. The Mayor's Fellows are also researching other municipalities conversion to EVs and possible implementation plans. As MP mentioned, we're also looking for funds to contract a consultant to develop a roadmap so we can begin the conversion.
- Several departments are looking at EVs, and there is interest in the Ford Lightning and Nissan Leaf. A GM rep has also graciously offered a Chevy Bolt loaner for trial purposes.

**Clint Shealy, Assistant City Manager for Public Services:**

- We're meeting with a consultant this afternoon to talk about excess biogas that we are generating off of our anaerobic digesters at the Metro wastewater treatment plant, a project that is nearing its completion.
- We're also developing an RFP, look at what we could do with that gas, whether it be cleaning compressing vehicle or something else, but rather than flare the excess. Not looking to get into the gas cleaning business, but looking for a public-private partnership to do something beneficial with excess biogas.
- Regarding the anaerobic digestion project, there have been great financial savings and environmental benefits from the project. Within one year, we have reduced the amount of bio solids being landfilled by almost 10 million pounds, reduced our hauling costs, which has diesel fuel and emissions by 35%. In our landfill and cost has been reduced by 27%.

- We are nearing completion of our aeration improvements at the treatment plant, which have greatly reduced the City's power bill.
- The automated metering infrastructure project is over 90% complete, and will basically pull 30 vehicles off the road that we're driving many, many miles every month, going out and reading meters and then we're using cellular technology to report those readings back to us to generate our water and sewer bills.

**Samantha Yager, Solid Waste Superintendent:**

- Recycling market prices are staying steady, so we're still seeing a rebate right now on our material.
- Received approval to hire a new Recycling Coordinator and will be posting the position later this week.

Dr. Z. then asked the group what they'd like to see CPAC and/or the City doing more of. Ideas included:

- Create an environmental job board to retain talent in the Midlands region.
- Better communicate what CPAC and the City is doing to the community.
- Increase readership of monthly Speaking Sustainability newsletter.
- Update the sustainability plan and/or work with others to supplement plans for sustainability, climate action.
- Inclusion of more updates in the newsletter, such as conversations with Dominion. Robert Anderson caveat: if we do something like that, will have to be very careful not to put words in the mouths of others and must also have approval of others.

Dr. Z. reminded the group of the advisory meeting 10 a.m. and closed the meeting at 9:45 a.m. for a break between the two meetings.